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CONFIDENTIAL September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Paper Study Involving Free Balloon and Powered Balloon
over Eastern Siberia

1. Memo attached was discussed with [] of OSI. His comments indicated that the best way to accomplish this mission was to determine some very favorable trajectories that could be utilized and confine the target study to those areas.

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2. The undersigned agreed to establish these trajectories and re-confer on this problem when the meteorological study was partially completed.

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File - Balloon Powered
Attachment - Draft Memo to OSI

post script - there are many targets, any trajectory
as per para 1, would cover some targets.

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DOC	25	REV DATE	2/7/80	BY	ELPD
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ORIG CLASS	5	PROB	4	REV CLASS	5
JUST	12	EXT	NOV	2010	AUTH: NS 70-2

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17 September 1958

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Collection Staff (OSI)

ATTENTION :

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SUBJECT

: Request for Assistance for Paper Study

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1. There are believed to be two new techniques relating to lighter-than-air vehicle that are believed to be especially adaptable for intelligence gathering purposes. In order to properly evaluate their usefulness it is proposed that a paper study be made using actual intelligence targets and parameters relating to the performance of actual intelligence gathering devices. The approach proposed is to start with the devices and target area and from a meteorological study determine the feasibility of accomplishing an intelligence gathering mission with lighter-than-air equipment.

2. The proposed study would determine the feasibility of placing a free balloon into and out of the target area from a controlled launch point to a controlled reception point with prevailing wind conditions for the area. The reception point could be radio transmitting and receiving facility that utilizes radio interrogation of intelligence collecting devices. The reception point may also actually retrieve the collection device if a relatively new technique is used. This technique involves a balloon-glider combination. The collection device would be glider borne, the glider would be released by a radio command signal and would home on a ground radio beacon at the reception point.

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The proposed study would also determine what the percentage increase in probability of accomplishing these missions would be if the second relatively new idea was utilized. This idea is based on a powered balloon capable of unmanned directed flight at very high altitudes. Winds unsuitable for free balloons might be suitable for such a vehicle and therefore the probability of accomplishing a specific mission should be increased. The extent of this increased probability should prove to be some measure of the usefulness of such a vehicle.

3. This paper study as presently visualized would not be comprehensive as regards either the meteorological or the intelligence collection aspects. A comprehensive meteorological study by itself would take too long and might prove unnecessary. The study will be thorough and will concentrate on obvious possibilities for favorable wind trajectories in the Eastern Siberian area. This area was chosen for several reasons. Chief among them is a unique upper wind pattern which should be favorable to lighter-than-air type missions.

4. It is requested therefore that OSI furnish assistance for the accomplishment of this study in the form of a representative but not all inclusive survey of possible targets and collection devices that could obtain information from them. It is expected that the devices will include electronic ferret, aerial camera, infra-red, spectrography or others. The targets should be those located between 172°W Longitude -150°E Longitude and 54°-70°N Lat.

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Without exhaustive detail or information highly classified to be divulged it would be desirable to know the following about the collection devices.

- (a) approximate size and weight
- (b) how close laterally and vertically must it be to the target
- (c) can intelligence collected be recorded and transmitted on command
- (d) electrical power requirement
- (e) advantage in recovering device intact
- (f) directional orientation requirement
- (g) geographical position recording requirement
- (h) any others believed pertinent

5. Should further information concerning this request be needed of TSS/ED please contact , Room 210, West Outbuilding, extension 25X1

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